

Case Study: Government Consulting

Supporting the New York City
Department of Buildings with
Construction Safety Oversight

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Background & Objectives



THE Louis Berger Group, INC.

, a leading global consulting firm that provides engineering, architecture, construction management, environmental planning, and economic development services, was contracted by the New York City Department of Buildings to help review and analyze its safety registration process. One of the key objectives of the Department is to ensure the safe conduct of construction work on New York City buildings.

The Dept. of Building's responsibilities include revoking, suspending or denying safety registration permits to promote safe work sites. Louis Berger was asked to develop a system to prioritize enforcement activity. With Maia Strategy Group's support, the company provided the following:

- An in-depth statistical analysis of existing safety permit, registration, license, violation, complaint and stop work order data
- Benchmarking analysis of other city and municipality policies and procedures for suspending or revoking construction permits due to safety violations
- Organized stakeholder interviews with the construction industry to ensure their opinions, perspectives and concerns were considered in the recommendations

Maia's Value: Business Development, Market Research & Statistical Analysis

Maia's contribution began in the business development phase, prior to Louis Berger's proposal submission and contract award. Maia Strategy Group was invited to bid for this contract and immediately recognized a strong fit with Louis Berger's "best in class" analytical capabilities in the construction industry. It asked Louis Berger to partner for this opportunity. Louis Berger responded with great enthusiasm and led the way in developing a powerful proposal for the New York City Department of Buildings which clearly communicated its market leading experience, sophisticated methodology and the value that the partnership with Maia Strategy Group would bring to the engagement.

Initially, Louis Berger relied on Maia Strategy Group's core competency in market research to support the firm with the benchmarking analysis. **Maia**

*"Berger was pleased to bring its deep experience in construction management and statistical analysis to help the Dept. of Buildings develop a ground breaking safety monitoring system. **Maia's support of the project extended well beyond the research support initially envisioned to include some of the more complex statistics and data analysis work activities. Together, the firms delivered a comprehensive review of the existing data and useful recommendations on implementing a safety monitoring system was the direct output"***

- Al Racciatti, Director of Financial and Regional Analysis, Louis Berger Group

Strategy Group identified “best-in-class” municipalities to benchmark and quickly assessed the intricacies of each municipality’s policies for managing construction safety violations. As Louis Berger conducted the statistical analysis it realized the data available for the analysis posed some challenges. **Louis Berger tapped into to Maia’s staff of statisticians to support it with developing “out of the box” creative statistical methodologies to derive the most value from the available data.**

Outcome

Louis Berger, with the support of Maia Strategy Group, provided the New York City Department of Building with recommendations to manage its safety registration and violation process. It recommended a tiered system that places construction firm registrants into categories based on their performance across multiple safety measures and thresholds. Construction firms with poor safety records are placed into tiers which call for increased monitoring by the Dept. of Buildings and ultimately the development of a remediation plan designed to improve their safety performance. Louis Berger’s recommended system supports fairness and provides registrants with every opportunity to improve their safety performance before the Dept. of Buildings considers enforcement action. The framework also recognizes firms with outstanding safety records, thus promoting the overall goal to improve worksite safety throughout the city.